

Reflection Questions: Luke 8:26-39

For the message, "The Supernatural Authority of Jesus" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on January 19, 2020

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Luke 8:26-39

26 Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. **27** When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. **28** When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." **29** For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) **30** Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. **31** And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. **32** Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. **33** Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.

34 When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. **35** Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. **36** And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. **37** Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. **38** The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, **39** "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- Do you find it easy or difficult to believe in supernatural evil? Why or why not?
- No doubt Luke knew in presenting this episode from the life of Jesus that it would provoke many questions in our minds. But how would you summarize what Luke is trying to get us to see about Jesus? What do you see in this text that helps inform us about the person of Jesus?
- How do you see Jesus at work restoring your humanity? Your sanity?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- How does this text help us to understand the importance of keeping the supernatural authority of Jesus front and center? How might things change among us if we lived like we believed that Jesus has all power and authority given to him? How might, for example, this help root us in a forward looking faith to that day when Jesus will liberate this creation and set it right?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- How does this passage help us remember that our message isn't that Jesus is just one of many wise people we could look to for inspiration, but rather that he is in a class all by himself?
- What happens if we forget this? If we 'domesticate' Jesus into just another self-help guru? How do we distort the message of the gospel?